

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the Abstract with the following Abstract.

-- A method for protecting a datum, wherein the datum is encrypted and, prior to sending the datum to a recipient, the datum is divided into at least a first block and a second block. The method includes receiving, at the recipient, the first block; decrypting the first block to obtain a decrypted first block, re-encrypting the decrypted first block to obtain a re-encrypted first block using an encryption algorithm, prior to decrypting the second block, receiving, at the recipient, the second block, decrypting the second block to obtain a decrypted second block; and re-encrypting the decrypted second block to obtain a re-encrypted second block using the encryption algorithm, wherein the first block and the second block are transmitted individually to the recipient.--